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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : JAMES A. HELLBUSCH, ET AL. GROUP NO.: 1723

SERIAL NO. : 09/970,594

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FILED : October 4, 2001

TITLE : BRINE MAKER

FOURTH STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

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Dear Sir:

Applicants filed the above-identified application on October 4, 2001, and received Serial No. 09/970,594 as evidenced by a copy of the filing receipt attached hereto. Applicants respectfully inquire as to the status of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Registration No. 44,974  
THOMTE, MAZOUR & NIEBERGALL  
Attorneys of Record

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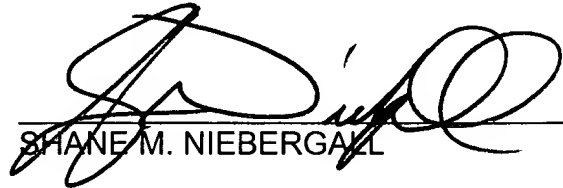
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the original of this FOURTH STATUS INQUIRY for JAMES A. HELLBUSCH, ET AL., Serial No. 09/970,594, was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, on this 26th day of April, 2004.

  
SHANE M. NIEBERGALL